

## Message Text

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71

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 EUR-12 IO-10 AF-06 DODE-00

L-03 DHA-02 SCCT-01 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 USIA-15 AS-01 /106 R

DRAFTED BY: NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY: NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS-MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

T-MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P-MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN- MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 116045

R 060003Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR  
JANUARY 5, 1976:

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANYTHING ON THE ALLON VISIT IN TERMS  
OF MEETINGS?

A. YOU MEAN THE SPECIFIC? I'M NOT ABLE TO PUT OUT THE  
SPECIFIC SCHEDULE, NO. THERE WILL BE MEETINGS ON  
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY.

Q. COULD YOU CONFIRM THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADORS TO THE  
MIDDLE EAST HAVE BEEN RECALLED FOR CONSULTATION?

A. I CONFIRMED THAT ON FRIDAY.....THAT IS FROM SYRIA,  
JORDAN, EGYPT, PLUS AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE PORTER TO SAUDI  
ARABIA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THESE CONSULTATIONS.

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Q. HOW ABOUT AMBASSADOR TOON?

A. AMBASSADOR TOON IS COMING BACK IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S  
VISIT.

Q. BOB, WHAT WILL BE THE AMERICAN POSITION BEFORE THE UN  
SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, ESPECIALLY REGARDING COMMITMENTS

TOWARD ISRAEL RESISTING ANY CHANGE TO THE WORDING OF  
242 AND 338?

A. SEVERAL POINTS: AS WE HAVE REITERATED ON EVERY  
OCCASION THAT WE HAVE BEEN ASKED, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE  
THAT RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 ARE THE ONLY BASIS FOR  
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE PREPARED TO VETO ANY RESO-  
LUTION THAT IS NOT HELPFUL TO THE PROCESS OF PEACE IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST. BUT MEANWHILE, WE WILL NOT BE MAKING A  
DECISION ON THE POSITION WE WILL TAKE AT THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK UNTIL WE HAVE HAD OUR MEETINGS  
WITH THE AMBASSADORS AND WITH MR. ALLON.

Q. WOULD YOU REJECT IN PRINCIPLE AN EFFORT MADE TO  
CHANGE LANGUAGE IN THE EXISTING RESOLUTIONS THAT REFERS TO  
THE PALESTINIANS AS REFUGEES?

A. I THINK I WILL STAND ON THOSE TWO SPECIFIC POINTS  
I HAVE MADE WITHOUT TRYING TO SPECULATE ON WHAT OTHER  
ACTIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN.

Q. WILL THE SECRETARY BE EXPLORING WITH ALLON WAYS TO  
HANDLE THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE?

A. IT'S PRETTY HARD TO ENVISAGE DISCUSSIONS ON THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING NEXTWEEK WITHOUT TAKING INTO  
ACCOUNT THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIANS.

Q. WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT, I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT I  
MEAN SPECIFIC WAYS OF DEALING WITH THEM.

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO ANY DETAIL OF THE  
SUBSTANCE OF THESE TALKS.  
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Q. I WONDER IF WE COULD GET FINALLY A SPECIAL STATEMENT  
OR SOME KIND OF POSITION FROM THE SECRETARY ON THE  
SAUNDERS TESTIMONY. DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE REVIEW IT  
BEFORE IT WAS GIVEN? DID HE HAVE A HAND IN WRITING IT?  
DID HE APPROVE IT? DID HE CLEAR IT BEFORE IT WAS GIVEN ON  
THE HILL?

A. WE COMMENTED, I THINK, EXTENSIVELY ON MR. SAUNDER'S  
STATEMENT. LET ME REVIEW THE RECORD. I THINK THAT QUES-  
TION CAME UP WHILE WE WERE IN EUROPE.

Q. THE RECORD IS RATHER EVASIVE AS A MATTER OF FACT.

A. LET ME CHECK THE RECORD. I WASN'T HERE WHEN THAT CAME

UP.

Q. IS IT STILL OUR POSITION THAT WE WOULD LIKE ISRAEL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE?

A. YES, I BELIEVE THAT IS STILL OUR POSITION.

Q. CAN I MAKE CERTAIN I UNDERSTAND HOW FAR I CAN GO IN DRAWING A LINE FROM OPPOSITION TO ANY ACTION WHICH DOES NOT LEAD TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ANYTHING THAT TENDS TOWARD A CHANGE IN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338? ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE WILL VETO ANY EFFORT IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO CHANGE THE TEXT OF THOSE TWO RESOLUTIONS?

A. TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID, I SAID THAT RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 ARE THE ONLY BASIS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. SO OBVIOUSLY OUR POSITION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL STARTS FROM THAT POINT, WHICH MEANS THAT WE WOULD OPPOSE ANYTHING THAT WOULD SUBTRACT FROM THE PRINCIPLE THAT I AM RESTATING HERE, THAT THEY REPRESENT THE ONLY BASIS.

Q. ALL RIGHT, THEN CAN WE GO FURTHER AND SAY THAT THEY IN THEIR PRESENT FORM REPRESENT THE ONLY BASIS?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE LANGUAGE IN FRONT OF ME, AND I DON'T WANT TO DETRACT FROM THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT THOSE  
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TWO RESOLUTIONS SAY.

Q. YOU ARE GETTING INTO VERY MURKY WATERS HERE. AS YOU KNOW, THE ISRAELI POSITION IS THAT NOT A WORD SHOULD BE CHANGED IN EITHER RESOLUTION. YOUR STATEMENT SEEMS TO LEAVE SOME ROOM FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES IF IT IS HELPFUL FOR THE PROCESS OF PEACE.

A. YES, BUT YOU CAN'T SEPARATE ONE POINT FROM THE OTHER.

Q. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE HOUSE IS, WOULD THE U.S. VETO ANY CHANGE IN EITHER OF THOSE TWO RESOLUTIONS?

A. IF THEY REPRESENT THE ONLY BASIS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, OBVIOUSLY THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATE HAS TO BE

CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION THAT IS CONTAINED IN THOSE TWO RESOLUTIONS.

Q. LET ME ASK A TECHNICAL POINT. CAN THE RESOLUTIONS BE CHANGED AND KEEP THE SAME NUMBER, AND CAN IT BE 242 AMENDED, OR DOES IT HAVE TO BE A NEW RESOLUTION? DO YOU

KNOW?

A. I ASSUME THAT IF A RESOLUTION COMES OUT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE NEXT WEEK IT WOULD BE A NEW RESOLUTION.

Q. WELL, BEFORE YOU MAKE HEADLINES IN THE ISRAELI PRESS, YOU BETTER GET GUIDANCE BECAUSE, WHETHER YOU MEAN TO OR NOT, YOU HAVE LED EVERYONE HERE TO BELIEVE THAT YOU MIGHT ACCEPT SOME CHANGES IN THE LANGUAGE.

Q. THE REASON FOR THIS, ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES HERE, IS THE PALESTINIANS HAVE INDICATED THROUGH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES THAT THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST OR THE UN RESOLUTIONS UNTIL LANGUAGE REFERRING TO THE PALESTINIANS AS REFUGEES IS CHANGED TO SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OR INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS". AND THE QUESTION IS, WOULD WE CONSIDER SUCH AN EFFORT TO BE CONDUCIVE TO FURTHERING THE PEACE

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PROCESS, OR ARE YOU SAYING HERE THAT WE WILL VETO ANY EFFORT MADE TO CHANGE THE RESOLUTIONS?

A. LET ME REPEAT THE TWO MAIN POINTS I MADE. AND THAT IS THAT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT 242 AND 338 ARE THE ONLY BASIS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND THE SECOND POINT IS WE ARE PREPARED TO VETO ANY RESOLUTION THAT IS NOT HELPFUL TO THE PROCESS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. CAN I STEP BACK A LITTLE FURTHER? IS THE UNITED STATES VIEW -- IS IT THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIANS IS A PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES OR A PROBLEM OF DEALING IN SOME WAY WITH THEIR "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS"?

A. I THINK, YOU KNOW, OUR WHOLE POSITION ON ANY CONTACTS WITH THE PALESTINIANS, MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT WE HAVE SAID THAT UNTIL THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL AND THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS, THAT IS A MOOT QUESTION; WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO CONSIDER SUCH CONTACTS.

Q. WE'RE NOT PREPARED TO DEFINE WHETHER IT'S A QUESTION OF REFUGEES OR INTERESTS?

A. UNTIL THEY HAVE ACCEPTED THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THOSE TWO RESOLUTIONS, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO CONSIDER THEIR RE-

PRESENTATION OR PARTICIPATION.

Q. THAT IS THE PLO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

A. YES.

Q. I BESEECH YOU TO COME BACK WITH MORE FIRM ANSWERS.

Q. SO DO I.

A. I STAND ON THOSE THREE POINTS I MADE AT THE OUTSET.

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Q. I STILL WANT TO GO BACK TO MY THING. ON THE SAUNDERS STATEMENT, DID HE NOT TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS?

A. YES, I BELIEVE HE DID.

Q. NOW, THE QUESTION IS THIS: IF 242 REFERS TO THE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES -- AS IT DOES -- AND WE HAVE SINCE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF DEALING WITH THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS, WOULD IT BE CONDUCTIVE TO A SETTLEMENT TO GET THAT RECOGNIZED IN A UN RESOLUTION?

A. I AM JUST NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID HERE TODAY.

Q. WELL, YOU SEEMED TO LEAVE ROOM FOR THAT.

Q. IN VIEW OF THE DISCUSSIONS LATER THIS WEEK, HAS ANY PROGRESS BEEN MADE ON EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE PERSHING'S?

A. FOR THE WHAT?

Q. PERSHING'S?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE STATUS OF THE ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL.

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## Message Attributes

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